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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Molotov Oblast)

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SUBJECT Experiments and Tactical Exercises with
New Soviet Tank Trailers

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1. In the vicinity of Molotov (58-00N, 56-15E) experiments and field exercises were carried out with T-34 and JS tanks and tank trailers. It was reported that these experiments and exercises took place sometime before 2 February 1952 and during May-June 1952. The exercises were not held in conjunction with any other military maneuvers.

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2. The trailers are motorless and are designed to be towed by tanks. [redacted] the trailers have the shape and armor of a T-34 tank. [redacted] the armor was like that of a 50-ton tank. The trailers are about one meter longer than a T-34 tank and, like tanks, they presumably have tank tracks.

3. Two arms connect the trailers to the tanks. These arms with a connecting device are about one meter long and 25 cm wide. The arms turn on a pivot and, the fact that there are two arms rather than just one, diminishes the possibility of capsizing the trailer while travelling over rugged terrain. The connecting device can close automatically and it holds because it can be electrically magnetized. By cutting off the current, the connecting device is demagnetized and the trailer may then be automatically detached from the tank. 1 - 50X1-

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4. The trailers are equipped with two rapid firing 80-85 mm guns. [redacted] these guns are mounted on front and rear turrets. He ascribes to these guns an angle of elevation of 17 degrees and a traversability of 360 degrees.² However, when the trailer is loaded with men [redacted] the forward gun may be traversed only 30 degrees right and 30 degrees left, the rear gun 45 degrees right and 45 degrees left. If the guns were traversed to a greater angle and fired, some men would be injured b2

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the gun, due to its recoil. [] both guns can be horizontally traversed 45 degrees right or left. Two men sit on folding seats at each gun to man them. The guns are electrically operated, each utilizing a storage battery. A Diesel charging unit is available to the trailers for recharging their batteries.

5. The following are some miscellaneous features of these tank trailers:
 - a. The tanks with trailers can attain a speed of nearly 50 mph (80 versts) on level ground.
 - b. The top of each trailer has an observation opening which can be completely closed except for a slit sight. In addition, they are equipped with a periscope.
 - c. The trailers are equipped with radio, thus enabling the various units to communicate with each other.
 - d. The trailers carry about 25 men with equipment and supplies for 8 days.
 - e. The men in the trailers stand along the sides, hanging on to straps which they place under their armpits.
 - f. Each trailer has four wide armored sliding doors through which assault troops may quickly exit. The doors open automatically and are serviced by the soldier at the observation opening.
 - g. The ammunition is stacked in two rows in the middle portion of the trailer.
 - h. New type machine guns are at the sides of the trailers, with one man operating each gun.
6. The main purpose of the trailers is for use after the tanks have penetrated the enemy line. The trailers bring men and guns into the breach of the enemy line immediately. Thus, the tanks form a bridgehead within the enemy line.
7. The training indicates that tank and trailer attacks will be made in wedge formations of six tanks and trailers. During the penetration attack, guns are fired by the trailer crews only to ward off enemy flanking attacks and then only by those trailers on the outside of the wedge formations. When the enemy line has been sufficiently penetrated, the trailers are automatically unhooked after having been formed into a trailer barricade. The trailers are then in such a position that they can fire and attack in all directions. Assault troops leave the trailers and fight on foot. The tanks swing out to the right and left of the trailer barricade in order to roll up the front line or at least exploit the situation. If this maneuver does not succeed the tanks and troops return to the trailer barricade and the tank trailer force remains in any situation within the enemy line as a small task force. The trailers must remain in the barricade position to fight, wear down the enemy, and prepare for the next attack.
8. In a follow-up attack, the artillery is first called upon to lay down a close barrage. Then the tank trailer force again attacks, once more using the wedge formation and the same tactics as in the original attack.
9. In making this type of tank trailer attack, it is thought that at least two such wedge formations, separated by about one km, must be used. Within this one km between the two tank trailer formations, the infantry is expected to break through.

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1. [] Comment. See Attachment for a sketch of the tank-trailer connecting device
2. [] Comment. [] probably [] both guns of the trailer can command a field of 360 degrees. [] the limitation of traversing the guns because of the possibility of injury to troops due to the recoil would indicate the complete impossibility of traversing the guns anywhere near 360 degrees.
3. [] Comment. See Attachment for sketch of the tank-trailer operation.

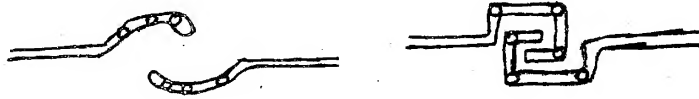
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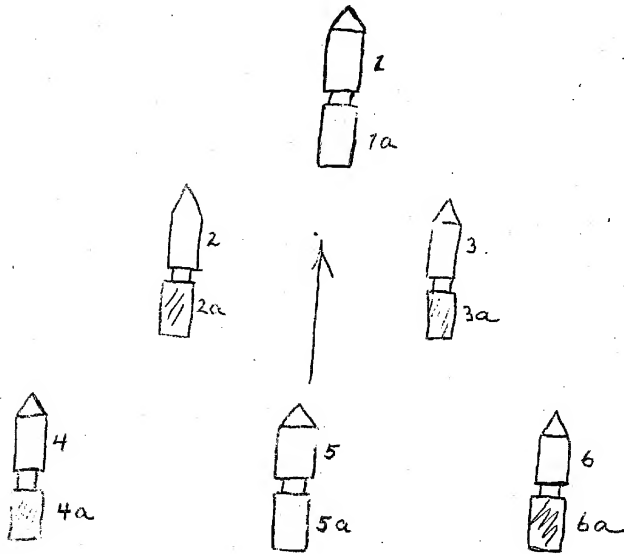
Attachment

Sketch of the Tank-Trailer Connecting Device

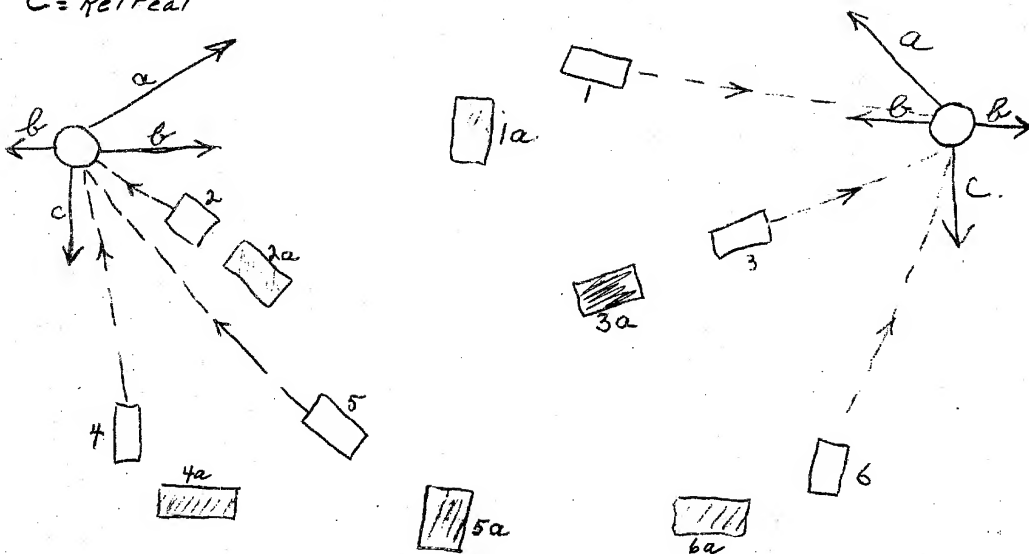
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Sketch of the Tank-Trailer Operation



A = New Assault
B = Roll Up
C = Retreat



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